

MUSIC INDIE SKA BAND MEMBERS
DIVIDED BY DECADES P.3

TRAVEL CHERRY PICKING BY THE
MING TOMBS P.5

FOOD THE SUMMER TRADITION OF
CHUAN'R AND BEER P.8

今日北京

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DARK AND DRAMATIC

ALTHOUGH CREEPY AT FIRST GLANCE, CHEN JINGZI'S
DARKNESS SERIES SHOWS THE POWERFUL EXPRESSION
THAT IS LEFT BEHIND WHEN LIGHT GOES AWAY. P.4



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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ENTERTAINMENT



Photos by douban.com

Unforgettable Blast Tells the Bleak Story of New Grads

BY DIAO DIAO

Graduation season is here, and thousands of new degree holders are scrambling to find work and housing in the capital.

Released just in time to capitalize on that anxiety, *Unforgettable Blast* hit theaters on

May 22. While most review sites bear a wall of negative comments, recent graduates say the film helped to temper their optimism about the job market.

Ye Su, Zhang Yixian and Huang Dazhong decide to stay in the big city to look for work

and love. Like most young people, they graduate with the misguided belief that a bachelor's degree and hard work is all it takes to get ahead.

After many rounds of interviews, the only work the three can find fails to appeal to their passion or interest. Moreover, the notoriously tough times experienced by new graduates seem to catch them completely off guard.

The three enter a world of overtime, harsh criticism and bullying colleagues. It's a sad and familiar place where pointless proposals, ineffective team building exercises and the last train home are the norm.

Ye is dumped by his rich girlfriend and quits his job to protect his pride, Zhang is fired by his boss and Huang Dazhong leaves the company for friendship.

The distance between dreams and reality lead the three young men to start their own business selling sugarcane.

The theme of the film is one of its main selling points and the basis of its few positive reviews.

The whole story is told in a semi-humor-

ous fashion that balances out its harsh message. The use of a three-man lineup led many viewers to draw comparisons to the 2013 film *American Dreams in China*, a film about three men's road to success and friendship. It was also compared with Indian film *3 Idiots* in 2011 for its similar style of acting.

Though some viewers were disappointed by the imitation of the former films, the location and actors make *Unforgettable Blast* unique.

The film was shot on the small streets where locals live. For many viewers, the housing was especially familiar and helped bring the film's message home.

In an industry awash in youth films that feature beautiful actresses, *Unforgettable's* plain characters helped to ground its story. Its refusal to reduce abortion to a cheap plot point was also a welcomed shift.

Younger viewers said they were impressed with the hardship and complexity of the work environment. The harsh line "Without me you wouldn't have a job" also captured the one-sided relationship that is employment in China. ■

Jackie Chan: Growing Old Before Growing Up

BY DIAO DIAO

Biographies of celebrities always win readers, and in most cases they are little more than a quick cash-in.

But for Jackie Chan, a world famous actor who already has fame and money, an autobiography is just a way to record his life.

Although there have been many interviews with Jackie Chan over the years, his autobiography, published on April 1, is the first time he talks about life on his own terms.

Jackie Chan was born as Chen Gangsheng in a shabby and remote house near the rich mountaintop area of Victoria, Hong Kong.

The two different worlds influenced Chan's short childhood. He often fought with foreign kids and was held back in

primary school. Eventually, his parents resolved to send him to study martial arts.

That decade is the one Chan describes as his darkest. He was bullied by older students and punished by his teachers, he writes.

But it was also the decade that made him the man he is today.

Chan stepped into the film industry at the age of 17. In those days he was the first to arrive on set and the last to leave. He volunteered for all the most dangerous stunts, from fighting a live leopard to risking his life by leaping off a 70-meter-high building.

Chan said that he tried to break into Hollywood film but failed twice. It wasn't until his third attempt, a little script he called *Rumble in the Bronx*, that

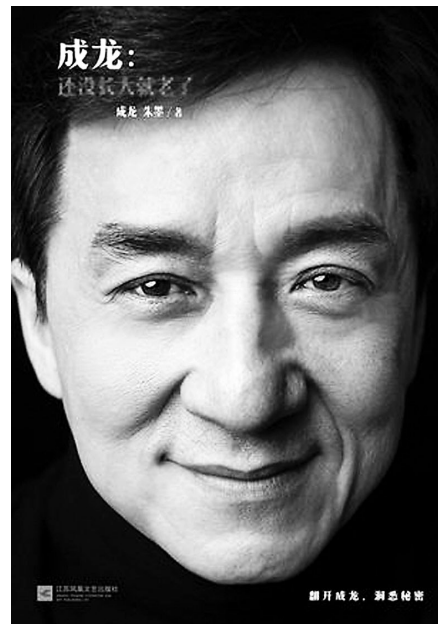
a Hong Kong film came to top the American box office.

From the beginning of his career, Chan knew the only thing that could compete with Hollywood technology was real stunts.

While fans admired him for pulling off all kinds of dangerous maneuvers, Chan said he was always afraid. But his stubborn character pushed him to finish with perfection.

In the book, Chan shares many regrets for the first time. It's also the first time he talks about his romantic history, which was for years the topic of Hong Kong tabloids.

As well as telling stories that happened behind the scenes, Chan responds to critics who say he is too old to fight and of his plans for the future and his son. ■



MUSIC



Photos by Cigar Scissor

Cigar Scissor Crossing Generations for Ska

BY DIAO DIAO

With a sound that is purely ska and a lineup of musicians whose ages span three decades, Cigar Scissor is unlike most local indie bands.

The band has its roots in a high performance by founding members Zhang Tianyi and Li Qingru. The impromptu show of Zhang on guitar and Li tapping out a rhythm on the body of an old guitar ended up winning the two a text message from a girl Zhang liked.

That was when they decided to get serious.

In college, Zhang took up electric guitar and Li started studying drums. Eventually they picked up two more members, a woman from their class and another who was studying guitar with Zhang.

When it came time to pick a name, Zhang and Li turned to their rebellious past. "One time when we were in school we bought some cigars and got a free cigar cutter that ended up getting confiscated by a teacher," Zhang said.

The four musicians began exploring the indie scene, starting with the go-to genre of rock and turning a sharp left after catching a performance by Longshendao, the kings of Chinese reggae. While the band looked like a couple bums with dreadlocks, their sound blew everyone away.

Zhang and Li began looking for the right style of reggae until they discovered ska, a predecessor to reggae developed in Jamaica.

"Reggae and ska both convey happiness through their light and complex rhythms, and that's what we wanted to play – something that would make people happy," Zhang said.

With a few original songs, Cigar Scissor started making a name for itself on the indie circuit. But half the members walked

out for personal reasons.

The search for new members marked a turning point: two men who were almost 20 years older than Zhang and Li joined to complete the band.

The new guitarist Dalei was born in the 1970s and made a living as a guitar teacher and studio musician: Cigar Scissor gave him the chance to appear on stage.

Although Dalei was honest about his age, the new bassist Laoxu was not.

As a project manager for Mercedes Benz, Laoxu loves playing bass and guitar. He joined the band and told the members he was 27 years old. When they finally registered for a live competition and had to show ID, the other members learned he was 35.

Surprise was not the only thing that came out of that competition.

"We took home a 10,000 yuan reward and let more people know about our music. That's what I consider the real beginning of our band," Zhang said.

But the age gape makes rehearsals difficult, as Laoxu and Dalei both have full-time jobs and families.

Zhang and Li also struggled with composing. "We were coming up with a chorus and trying to fill in the melody. But after a while it became obvious we were running out of ideas," Zhang said.

That's one area where Laoxu and Dalei's age has been a boon.

Under the influence of their older members, Zhang and Li have been learning to develop more mature songs that draw on the band's life experience.

As for life in Beijing's indie scene, Zhang and Li said they appreciate the antagonistic environment.

Good indie music is precious and can only stand out when it's pitted against a mainstream market with a completely contrary sound, they said. ■

☞ site.douban.com/xuejiajian/

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Chui Wan @ Yugong Yishan

Chui Wan is a psychedelic indie band. After finishing their tour of North America on June 2, Chui Wan is starting a national tour through Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Xi'an, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao. Chui Wan was founded in 2010 and takes its name comes from the *The Adjustment of Controversies* by Zhuangzi.

🕒 9:30-11:30 pm, June 6

📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

💎 60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

Hand of Mercy China Tour @ Mako Live

Hand of Mercy is an Australian hardcore band founded in Sydney in 2007. After releasing their first EP *Trash the Party*, they were invited by the famous Parkway Drive. Hand of Mercy quickly got attention abroad, and they began touring with the famous core band For the Fallen Dreams. They released *Last Nights*, their first album, in 2012 and began an international tour.

🕒 8:30-10:30 pm, June 7

📍 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang

💎 90 yuan (pre sale), 120 yuan (pre sale)

Borderless @ Hot Cat Club

Featuring the new, the China and the foreign, Borderless invites Sealed Jar, Pacalolo and Disaster Chat for one night of amazing music. The bands will be touring to other countries for international music communication.

🕒 9:-11:30 pm, June 6

📍 46 Fangjia Hutong, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng

💎 30 yuan



Core Music Festival @ MAO Live House

The third Core Music Festival will be held on June 5 and 6. The first day is a hardcore show featuring Saving Molly, Bufuzhixie, TLR and Return the Truth. The second day is focused on metalcore bands such as Mary Dolls and four newcomers.

🕒 7-11:30 pm, June 5 and 6

📍 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

💎 80 yuan (single day pre sale), 100 yuan (single day at door), 140 yuan (two days)



ARTISTS



C Chord



The Girl and Her Toy

The Drama of Darkness



The Fireflies



Trying on the Dress



The White Sweater

BY WANG LINGXIAO

Chen Jingzi's Darkness series begins with *The White Sweater*, a lone character in a dark forest. Although creepy at first glance, careful examination reveals an expression of peace and tenderness on the face of the woman in white.

That dramatic entry to her signature series began with a portrait of the artist captured by her husband.

"I realized how much more expressive images could be on a dark background when I began a painting based on his photo," Chen says.

The dramatic flair of the dark gave her a path.

Soon, Chen began work on *The Fireflies*, a significant turning point in her works. The painting features a multitude of figures who emerge to perform on stage. As the capstone project of her master's degree, *The Fireflies* was lauded by faculty and added to the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts' gallery.

To date, Chen's Darkness series has grown to include 40 paintings. Almost all feature young women as their dominant characters.

"Painting is supposed to express one's real ego. My theme was set down when I was in graduate school. I placed myself at the center and began depicting my own life and thoughts on the canvas," she says.

"Female characters have more variety, and time is especially precious for women. I want to pull attention to the women in the viewer's life: mothers, lovers and daughters."

Trying on the Dress totally expresses the whirlpool of emotion that accompanied the first time she tried on a wedding dress. "As my friends helped me put it on, I could feel my youth slipping away," she says.

Chen currently teaches oil painting at the Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, but she has never thought of her work as a way to make a living.

"Life is rich and colorful, and painting is just a part of it. I love beautiful clothes, I love photography and I love my husband and baby – I have passion and energy for other things," Chen says.

Her attitude to life may owe something to her studies under Liu Yongxu, a traditional painter.

"Liu had many odd ways of teaching us. She would bring a chicken to class and ask me to capture its motion. She asked me to feel the shape of a teapot under a cloth and paint it. She had me picking up stones, creating collages from shredded paper and watching the snow fall in winter," she says. "Liu stimulated my interest in painting and other kinds of art. And those all helped me to appreciate life."

In addition to painting, Chen dabbles in fashion design and manages an official WeChat channel dedicated to new fashion and clothes matching.

Most fans of her painting live in southern China. "I spent 10 years in Guangzhou. For some reason, young people there can more easily understand my dark theme," she says.

She is currently exploring ways to weave more dramatic plot elements, conflict and animals into her Darkness series. "Painting is the way I have always communicated with the outside world. I will always turn to the canvas to depict what I want to say and do," she says. ■

(Wang Lingxiao is an intern at Beijing Today.)

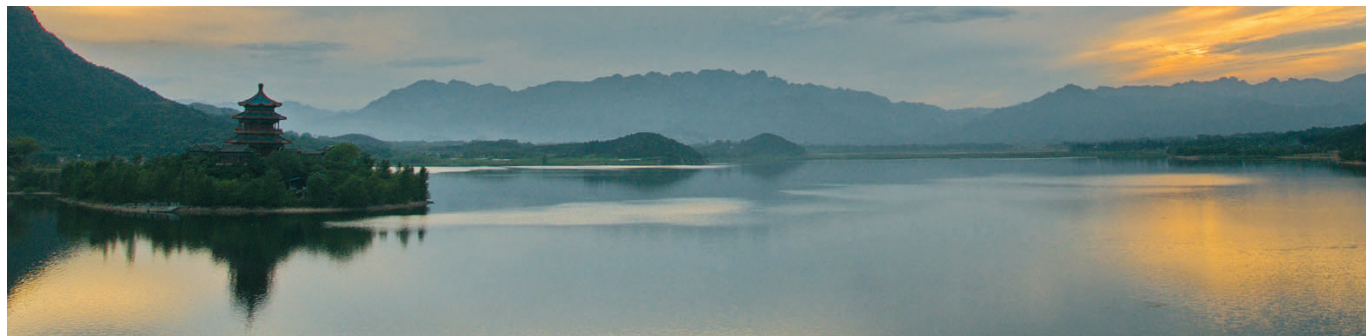


Yong Tan Diao

@陈静子的微波

筛SHAI (Official Account)

A TRAVEL



Weekend Trips for Cherry Picking

BY WANG LINGXIAO

Early summer offers the greatest variety of fruits in Beijing. The baskets of eye-catching cherries at fruit stands offer a mouthwatering alternative to the city's ever-available watermelons. The sweet and sour fruits are purported to detoxify the body and preserve beauty.

Cherries straight from the trees taste the best, and their early harvest makes them relatively free of pesticides when compared to other fruits. Beijing has plenty of places to go cherry picking, but the area near the Ming Tombs is known for its especially fresh and sweet cherries.

Finding a Time

Cherries ripen fast, so choosing the best weekend is important to avoid disappointment on your journey.

In Beijing, the best times for cherry picking are between May 20 and June 20. The "red light" cherries, which are sweeter and darker, usually ripen between May 20 and May 30. But if you prefer a more sweet-and-sour taste, the lighter "red honey" cherries are available through June 20.

The dates vary with the weather, so it's best to call ahead and see whether the cultivar you want will be available.

Picking Technique

Most of the cherry orchards allow tourists to eat for free. Go hungry if you hope to take advantage of this.

Choosing trees is an important step for cherry picking. Ten-year-old trees usually produce the best fruit. In addition, the trees' position can influence their flavor. Go deep into the orchard to find more trees with big and sweet fruits.

Even cherries on the same tree can vary wildly in taste. It's a good idea to climb the tree, because the cherries on the upper branches receive the most sunlight. Wear long pants to avoid injury.

Don't remove the stems. Rot sets in quickly once a cherry's stem has been removed.



CFP Photos

Recommendation

For cherry picking near the Ming Tombs, most reviewers recommend the following three:

Tianruntong Cherry Garden

➤ 1 Shennan Lu, Ming Tombs Scenic Area, Changping
💎 160 yuan per kg
☎ 139 0137 3598 or 137 1632 7101

Laoliu Cherry Garden

➤ Jiantou Village, Ming Tombs Scenic Area, Changping
💎 120 yuan per kg
☎ 158 1056 3882 or 185 1300 5551

Kanglingyuan Cherry Garden

➤ Kanglingyuan Village, Ming Tombs Scenic Area, Changping
💎 120 yuan per kg
☎ (010) 8036 1610

Prices can be lower if you book your cherry picking trip through a group-buy website.

If a weekend of fruit picking isn't enough, the Ming Tombs Scenic Area is a great place to learn more about Chinese culture.

Located at the foot Mt. Tianshoushan, the Ming Tombs include the tombs of 13 emperors, 23 empresses, two princes, more than 30 concubines and 2 eunuchs. With a history more than 500 years, the tomb group is the largest imperial mausoleum in China. ■

(Wang Lingxiao is an intern at Beijing Today.)

Transportation

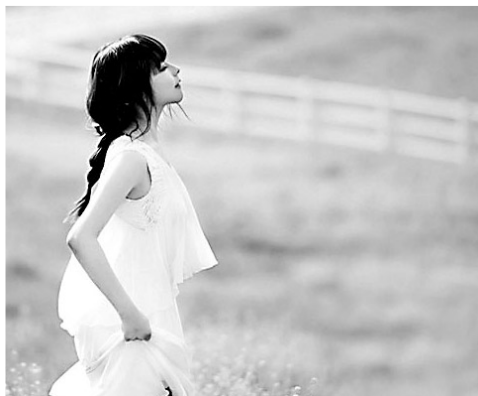
🚌 Take Bus 22 or 23 from Lishuiqiao Station to Shenlu Road, Dingling Tomb and Zhaoling Tomb. Alternatively, take Bus 345 from Deshengmen station to Changping North Station, then change to Bus 314 to Shenlu Road, Dingling Tomb and Changling Tomb.

🚗 Follow the G6 Jing-zang Expressway and exit by Changping Xiguan. Follow the roundabout onto G110, and then transfer to the Ming Tombs Road. The Ming Tombs Scenic Area lies about 2.8 kilometers down the road.



Going Out

BY QU CHAONAN



Sēn Xì (森系)

Sēn means forest, and sēnxì refers to fresh-faced girls surrounded by nature. At the mention of “sēn xì,” people tend to picture a beautiful, refined young woman in a light-colored floral skirt in the forest.

Besides floral skirts, sēnxì style also includes pleated skirts and ethnic attire. Many girls regard it as a fashion trend.

Sēnxì can also represent an attitude toward life that is free, simple, natural and comfortable.

(Qu Chaonan is an intern at Beijing Today.)

Yuē Ma (约吗)? Bù Yuē (不约)!

If you want to ask a friend out you can try the phrase *yuē ma*. Young people are fond of the greeting and use it as a catchphrase on social media. Even strangers use it to break the ice.

As a response to *yuē ma*, *bu yuē* has also become popular on social media. It's a direct refusal of the invitation – especially if the invitation was made by a man.



Wǒ Xiǎng Jìngjìng (我想静静)

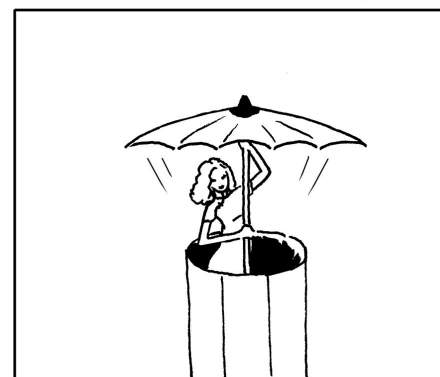
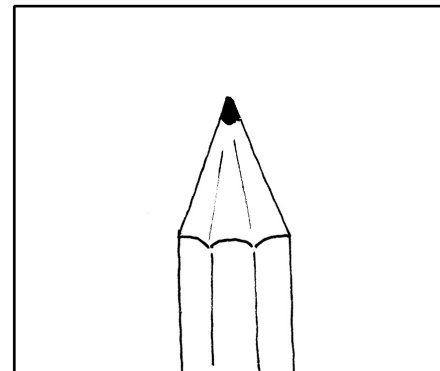
“Wǒ xiǎng jìngjìng” literally means “I want to be alone.” However, the Chinese can also be translated into “I miss Jìngjìng.”

Jìngjìng is a really common girl's name. Try to picture a suspicious wife's reaction when her tired husband says, “Wǒ xiǎng jìngjìng.”

It's become a phrase used to joke about one's depressed mood. ■



WEEKLY TANGO



TANG

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design.
For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [tangocartoon](#).

Ask Beijing Today

“Ask Beijing Today” is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing.

You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

Q. I am looking for a place to play volleyball. Indoor or beach volleyball is fine. Of course, it's best if I can play with other people. I was hoping you could give me some recommendations.

A. Shichahai Sport School is a good place to play indoor volleyball. It's near Houhai

and the cost is acceptable, but you will need to book in advance. It also has a decent volleyball league. If you want to play beach volleyball, Chaoyang Park would be a good choice. Some universities like Beijing Foreign Studies University also have outdoor volleyball courts, but no beach.

Q. Are there any scuba lessons offered in Beijing? Where should I go to learn?

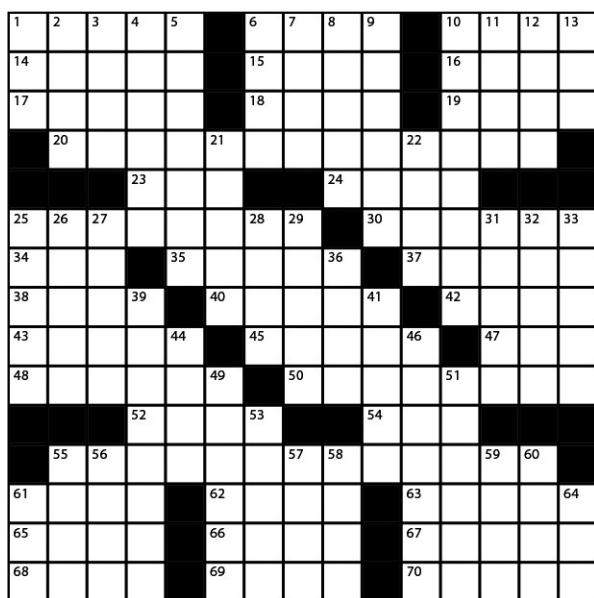
A. There are some places introducing diving and basic practice. You can find more detailed information on

sinoscuba.com.

Q. Where can I buy ping pong gear and where I can find people with whom to practice?

A. You can buy it online at Taobao or at any sporting goods shop. There are some locals who play ping pong in the afternoon in the residential garden on the east side of Sanlitun Bei Lu. Many local residential compounds have one or two ping pong tables. Just invite your neighbors to play with you. It may be better to play with kids if you are a total beginner. ■

THE BEIJING TODAY CROSSWORD



BY SU DERUI

Across

1. Clutch
6. “S.O.S.!”

10. Cheat, slangily
14. New Mexico's state flower
15. Cousin of a bassoon
16. Pool site, maybe

17. Kind of colony
18. Bound text
19. Butcher's stock
20. Secure in one's speech
23. In favor of
24. Soon, to a bard
25. Car for carrying equines
30. Party people
34. Bard's “before”
35. Alpine call
37. Indian dignitary
38. Found dancing in parks
40. Sites for rings
42. Talk like Daffy
43. Coast
45. Musical show
47. School group
48. Xerxes' queen
50. Polenta base
52. Cupid, to the Greeks
54. “Much ____ About Nothing”
55. Chinese slang for one's rectum
61. Safe, on board

62. Skier's transport
63. Exodus figure
65. “Nuts!”
66. Great Lakes city
67. Something to shoot for
68. Good name for a Dalmatian
69. Chest sound
70. Golfer's aid

Down

1. Swindle
2. Wishes undone
3. Teen affliction
4. Tonsure areas
5. Horse of the Middle
6. Ages Bum kin
7. Black, in poetry
8. Bath sponge
9. Old name for Beijing
10. Wedding-related
11. Black cat, maybe
12. Ella Fitzgerald
13. specialty Chow down
21. Dated programming language
22. Glum
25. Row of bushes
26. Certain exams
27. Invoice word
28. Skunk's defense
29. Three-masted ship
31. Take potshots (at)
32. Seed coat
33. Floral leaf
36. The L of L-dopa
39. Follower
41. Twilled silk fabric
44. Spooky
46. Native
49. Roll
51. To kiss, in Chinese netspeak
53. One born in Israel
55. Thunder sound
56. Protagonist
57. Hammer's target
58. Genealogist's work
59. Like hand-me-downs
60. Honey drink
61. Media revenue source
64. Crafty

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Q CLASSIFIEDS

MUSIC



Horseback Tunes: Tulegur, Ajinai, and Mabang

Tulegur is a modern nomad music group rooted in the tunes of Inner Mongolia and influenced by rock. Their sound is a great mixture of traditional music, rock and throat singing that's become known as "Mongolian grunge" or "nomad rock."

Gangzi is the soul of the band. A student of traditional opera, Gangzi can reach the lowest tones of throat singing. Attracted by modern music, Gangzi moved from Inner Mongolia to Beijing to perform and compose. A year later, he returned to his hometown, Hulunbeier, where he studied Khoomei singing with local farmers. After years of solo performances, Gangzi has achieved remarkable success across China and around the world.

Ajinai comes from Sanskrit and means a majestic and auspicious stallion. An ancient legend tells a story that long ago there was an Indian king who had an impressive and magical green stallion. When Buddhism entered Mongolia, the term "ajinai" was used to describe a great stallion. Like their Mongolian ancestors, Ajinai welcomes outside cultures and incorporates foreign elements into their unique sound.

Mabang is the term for transport caravans in the mountains of southwest China where people carry tea and salt across the mountains. Over the centuries, the Mabang have developed a culture of their own. The musical group Mabang was formed by Ye Honggang in 2010 in Liuzhou, Guangxi province. In the years since, they have become a top bands fusing local ethnic music with foreign sounds such as rock, reggae and ska. Its musicians are fascinated by musical instruments from all over the world and make use of them to create their unique sounds of nature, man and urbanhood.

⌚ 3:43 - 11:55 pm, June 12
➔ Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng (100m west of Zhangzizhong Lu subway)
☎ (010) 6404 2711
✉ info@yugongyishan.com
🌐 yugongyishan.com



Richard Sussman Jazz Quartet

Richard Sussman is a pianist, composer, music technologist, and professor of jazz at the Manhattan School of Music.

Over the years, Sussman has attained a high level of accomplishment and recognition as a jazz pianist and composer. His varied career includes performances and recordings with Lionel Hampton, Buddy Rich, Steve Slagle, Randy Brecker, Lee Konitz, Blood Sweat & Tears, David Sanborn, Houston Person and Donna Summer. His jazz discography includes four albums of original music, including the critically acclaimed *Free Fall*, *Live at Sweet Rhythm* and *Continuum*.

Richard has also achieved considerable success and recognition as a composer and orchestrator for large ensembles, with a particular focus on the integration of jazz rhythms and improvisational elements with contemporary classical harmonic and structural techniques. Writing credits include a commission by the Manhattan School of Music and arrangements for Lionel Hampton, Blood Sweat & Tears, Mel Lewis, Randy Brecker, the West Chester Jazz Orchestra, the Metropole Orchestra and the WDR Jazz Big Band.

⌚ 10 pm - 1 am, June 13
➔ East Shore Live Jazz Café, 2/F, 2 Qianhai Nanyan Lu, Xicheng (west of the post office at Di'anmen Wai Dajie)
☎ (010) 8403 2131

COMMUNITY



DIY Aquaponics Workshop

Have a small apartment but dream of a garden? This is your chance to build your own small aquaponics system to grow herbs, mini tomatoes and goldfish! Aquaponics is a combination of raising fish and growing plants without soil.

In addition to the environmental benefits of reduced pesticides and water consumption, aquaponics is a great solution for urban gardeners because it uses space efficiently, requires minimal effort once set-up and grows food very rapidly.

After a short introduction to the concepts and practicalities of aquaponics, the instructor will take you through the steps of building your own portable aquaponics system.

⌚ 4 - 5:30 pm, June 7
➔ Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng (Beixinqiao Line 5, Exit C)
💎 450 yuan with an aquaponics kit; 100 yuan without kit
☎ (010) 8404 4166
✉ contact@cultureyard.net
🌐 cultureyard.net

CULTURE



Ice Cream Road Stopover with Gérard Taurin

On the Ice Road is an initiatory journey of an ice adventurer who is passionate about history and civilization.

As part of the Croisements Festival, the French Junior Chamber of Beijing (JCEFP) and ice-cream maker Gérard Taurin are introducing the next unmissable Gourmet Rendez-Vous on Saturday, June 6.

The Ice Cream Road is an invitation to follow the discovery of ice throughout its history and its many destinations. Taurin, the Atelier JMT qualified team and other talented people will be there to assist the public in this initiation into iced flavors.

⌚ 6 - 10:30 pm, June 5
➔ L'atelier JMT, No.102-103, Building 2, Central Park, Tianzhu, Shunyi (corner of Yufeng Jie and Anhua Lu)
💎 240 yuan;
200 yuan (advance);
free for kids under 12
✉ commissionrouge@jcef-pek.in.fr
🌐 thatsmandarin.com

DINING



Learn to Make Gnocchi di Patate with Filippo

Gnocchi di Patate is a specialty of northern Italy. Come and learn to master this delicious Italian staple. In class you will learn how to make the Gnocchi from scratch together with three traditional

Gnocchi sauces.

During the class you will also learn how to make chocolate in a cup dessert, a recipe directly brought from the Dolomite Mountains. It's a typical dessert that will warm up your body on the coldest days.

⌚ 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, June 7
➔ The Hutong, 1 Jiudaowan Zhongxiang Hutong, Dongcheng (southeast of Beixinqiao)
💎 300 yuan,
260 yuan for members
☎ (010) 6404 3355;
15901046127
✉ info@the-hutong.com
🌐 thehutong.com



Poetic Cuisine with Pablo Neruda at Pinotage Sanlitun

Join this lunch buffet and exquisite dinner with a "Homage to Pablo Neruda" recital. Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) was a renowned sybarite: He wrote odes and poems to lemons, tomatoes, artichokes, corn and other delicious preparations that captured the essence of Chile. Neruda once wrote that one who eats Chilean dishes may know the taste of heaven.

In 2004, two famous South African poets, Nadine Gordimer (Nobel Prize) and Wally Serote, were rewarded with the Presidential Medal of Honor on the centennial of Pablo Neruda. The South African restaurant and wine bar Pinotage has the pleasure of hosting this delicious poetry dinner and recital for your enjoyment in the heart of Beijing.

This concert came to life as a tribute to the Chilean national poet and Nobel Prize Winner, Neruda, thanks to the Hanshing Agency and Pinotage Restaurant.

Enjoy a pisco sour happy hour and snacks from 6 - 7 pm.

⌚ 11:30 am - 11:55 pm, June 6
➔ Pinotage, Lane Bridge Villa Compound, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang
💎 300 yuan set dinner;
48 yuan lunch buffet
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FOOD



Photo by Douguo.com



Photo by websbook.com

Smoky Street Barbecue Tradition



Photo by Yanzhen.com

BY WANG YAN

Beijing is a city that can't help but make an impression on its visitors. While many might take away images of packed, enormous skyscrapers and rowdy clubs, food lovers will remember the smell of smoky street side barbecues.

The capital's busy streets get much of their nighttime illumination from red neon signs that say "chuan'r." Essentially a Chinese take on kabobs, the skewers features roasted meats like mutton, chicken wings or organs.

The popular grills arrived in China through the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and spread throughout the country, taking an especially strong hold in the north.

Grilling meat on skewers is a tradition almost as old as the discovery of fire. While the Pacific Rim has its own grilling traditions mostly focused on the cuisines of Japan and Hawaii, it's the Middle East that was defined the kabob.

Since Xinjiang is close to the Middle East both culturally and geographically, the region's cuisine exerts a heavy influence. But where many Middle Eastern traditions involve taking the meat off the skewer to stuff bread or serve in bowls, Xinjiang's

meats never leave their sticks until they are bound for your stomach.

Traditional skewers in Xinjiang were made of red willow, but today most are made of iron.

Whereas the Xinjiang tradition calls for mutton with cumin and spice, Beijing's restaurants aren't beholden to halal requirements. Most restaurants serve barbecued chicken wings, vegetables and even pork alongside their mutton.

A popular order at most chuan'r spots is the aptly named "Crazy Spicy Chicken Wings" – a seemingly volcanic creation favored by brave eaters that is almost as painful going in as it is coming out.

All chicken parts find a use on Beijing's chuan'r, with hearts and livers being especially popular. If your palate is more delicate, go with the bacon-wrapped mushrooms.

Like other street foods, chuan'r is an important part of Beijing life. Many a topless Beijinger can be spotted – bottle of Yanjing Beer in hand – tearing through a mountain of chuan'r and boiled soybeans on a hot summer nights.

If you are ready to mingle with the locals, chuan'r places might be a good start. ■

Time for Cold Beer and Chuan'r

BY WANG YAN

Food safety concerns – while not entirely unreasonable – might make you think twice about trying a street-side barbecue shop. But if you're just looking for a place to grab a beer and some chuan'r while watching a soccer game, Shi Sa Bu Kao could become your next favorite venue.

Located in Chaoyang District, the restaurant is artistically decorated with white walls, a gray tile roof and a menu penned in calligraphy.

The restaurant looks more like an art gallery than a loud space for a night out with friends, but its spacious interior, big tables and giant projection screen suggest otherwise.

Customers are not only fond of the environment: its food has received five-star rating on Dianping.com. Many reviewers favored the grilled lamb skewers, chicken hearts and barbecued seafood. Shi Sa Bu Kao tries to mix Western elements in its food by topping its scallops with creamy cheese. The barbecued frogs are also popular with Dianping.com reviewers.

Reviewers also seem to be really fond of the restaurant owner. Many have mentioned that the owner is especially cool and fun to be around.

One reviewer shared a picture of their group dancing on the restaurant's tables. For those looking for fun on the east side, Shi Sa Bu Kao might save you a trip to Sanlitun. ■



MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Lamb Kabobs

BY WANG YAN

Yangrouchuan'r, or lamb kabobs, are a quintessential Beijing street food. But a loosely enforced, citywide ban on street barbecues can occasionally force food lovers to fend for themselves.

This is a simple recipe to help you make your own kabobs without having to worry about polluting the air.

Ingredients:

- ☐ 3 tbsp cumin powder
- ☐ cumin seeds
- ☐ 2 tbsp soy sauce
- ☐ 1 tsp crushed red pepper
- ☐ salt
- ☐ black pepper
- ☐ garlic
- ☐ oil
- ☐ 0.5 kg lamb shoulder or shank
- ☐ skewers



Photo by douguo.com

The Steps:

1. Cut the lamb into 1/2 inch cubes.
2. Soak the wooden skewers in water for 20-30 minutes prior to use.
3. Whisk the cumin seeds, oil, soy sauce, garlic and crushed red pepper together. Add a dash of salt and pepper.
4. Place the lamb in a plastic bag and add the marinade. Store it in a refrigerator for anywhere between 2 hours to a full day.
5. Thread lamb onto the skewers.
6. Place the skewers on the grill and cook for four minutes. Rotate. Continue grilling until the meat is cooked through, or about 8-10 minutes in total.
7. Season the grilled lamb with the cumin powder.



Photos by dianping.com

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